



## Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. 2015 Annual Report

**Our Mission:** To link the parents of Sullivan County to safe, enriching, quality child care by strengthening professional providers through education and resources.

**Values statement:** We are committed to promoting quality child care for Sullivan County through educational opportunities, professionalism, commitment, excellence and respect.



## **COUNCIL HISTORY**

In the early 1980's Cornell Cooperative Extension's Human Ecology Department had interested staff that provided a number of workshops regarding child care issues. As a result of these workshops a number of interested community members began to meet on a regular basis to discuss local child care concerns.

The group's main concern began to focus on the lack of adequate childcare in Sullivan County. At the time, there were two center based programs, one of which was Head Start, one nursery school, one family day care program and many unregulated home providers.

Head Start and Cornell Cooperative Extension applied for and received a grant to provide training to family child care providers.

In the late 1980's the Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. was formed. The Council then applied for a grant to continue to provide training services to Sullivan County child care providers. As things evolved it was discovered that parents were in need of a mechanism to provide appropriate child care referrals.

In 1990 the Council hired its first executive director and in 1992 the Council was awarded its first contract to provide child care resource and referral services (CCRR) to the children and families of Sullivan County.

Subsequently the Council has been facilitating the CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program), providing registration and legally exempt services for much of the past twenty years.

In 2011 the Council expanded their partnership with the Sullivan County Department of Health & Family Services to include direct support to families in need of child care assistance. This includes technical and payment support for child care providers as well.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. has been successfully serving our community for over thirty years largely due to our dedicated and passionate staff, Board of Directors, funders, elected and appointed governmental officials and our child care workforce.

Combined, the staff has 59 years of experience in providing services to the children, families, child care professionals and businesses in Sullivan County. Our Board is made up of a diverse group of professionals and community minded people that have a passion for children and families. The information found on the following pages has been carefully collected from various sources such as the Early Care and Learning Council data dashboard, NACCRRAware reports, Child Care Facility System reports, provider and/or community surveys and evaluations, Sullivan County statistics and the US Census Bureau.

Copies of our Annual Reports are posted on our website and available to new businesses and parents entering the area as well as local, county and state policy makers.

We welcome comments and input so that we can continue to offer useful data to our stakeholders and partners in the coming years.

Yours in child care,

Donna Willi  
Executive Director

## **Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. STAFF**

Donna Willi, Executive Director

Michelle Albrecht, Administrative Assistant

Lee A. Brown, Subsidy and Legally Exempt Coordinator

Pamela DeMarmels, Subsidy Specialist

Aimee Pittaluga, CACFP Coordinator and Technical Assistance Specialist

Theresa Murdock-Marin, Registration Coordinator

Allison Wall-Carty, Parent Counselor

## **Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. BOARD of DIRECTORS**

Bob Eddings, President

Darlene Beiling, Vice President

Elizabeth Kubenik, Secretary

Stephanie Doyle, Treasurer

Susan Dollard

James Farrell

Tony Harvey

Jodi Kane

Katia Martin

Regina Mckenny-Snead

Robin Meddaugh

Dr. Jamie Noeth

Susan Peters

Laura Quigley

Nora Rausch

Barbara Sush

Dr. Jeffrey Weinstein

## ADVOCACY

The Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. supports Child Care Aware of America and the Winning Beginning NY advocacy efforts each year.

In 2015 the Council continued to educate, support and promote parent choice of using regulated child care.

### **National**

The reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (the origination of CCRR funding) comes with many challenges across the United States. Many states are not prepared or equipped to implement the required changes. The changes include but are not limited to, expanding the fingerprint background checks to include the federal data base for all providers, including legally exempt; expanding subsidy payments to include a minimum of absences; a one year authorization period for child care subsidy approval and a benefit extension requirement for families who become ineligible due to increased income.

### **State**

The reauthorization of the Child Care and Development Block Grant will cost New York an estimated 93 million dollars just to implement the fingerprinting requirements. These requirements currently come with no additional federal monies leaving other quality initiatives and programs at risk of losing their funding, specifically Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCRR). The CCRR State Association, Early Care and Learning Council, is working diligently with our network to identify the best ways to navigate the impending implementation of these new requirements. The decisions being made by NYS agencies in the coming months may have a significant impact on the future of the Council.

## CHILD CARE SUPPLY & DEMAND in Sullivan County

Number of Programs by Modality

	JAN	DEC
Center	12	12
Group Family	20	17
Family	30	26
School-Age	7	7
Legally Exempt	20	23
LE In-Home	13	24
LE Group	2	2

	Number of Slots	Number of Requests
Center	890	463
Group Family	272	573
Family	208	628
School-Age	545	106
Legally Exempt	83	N/A
LE In-Home	18	N/A
LE Group	11	N/A

It is important to note that we received **376 requests for infant care** (aged 6 weeks to 2 years). Currently Sullivan County has 94 infant slots (aged 6 weeks to 18 months) and 137 toddler slots (age 18-36 months) totaling 231. It is likely that all of these slots are currently filled leaving us no referral options. It is because of this many parents turn to legally-exempt or unregulated child care.

### REGULATED CHILD CARE

**Day Care Center:** program numbers above represent an approximate total of 890 child care slots for children aged 6 weeks to 12 years in a day care center setting.

Day care center settings are required to provide separate age appropriate settings for the different age groups served. Adult/child ratio varies with age.

**Group Family Child Care:** program numbers above represent an approximate total of 272 child care slots for children aged 6 weeks to 12 years in a family child care setting. These programs typically care for six to eight children and generally have one staff person in addition to the owner/on-site provider.

**Family Child Care:** program numbers above represent an approximate total of 208 child care slots for children aged 6 weeks to 12 years in a family child care setting. These programs typically care for six to eight children and generally do not have staff other than the owner/on-site provider.

**School Age Child Care:** program numbers above represent an approximate total of 545 child care slots for children in Kindergarten to age 12 years. The majority of these programs are located in public school buildings. The majority of school-age programs in Sullivan County are in public school buildings.

**UNREGUATED CHILD CARE** - New York State believes these modalities of care provide additional choices for parents receiving child care subsidies.

**Legally Exempt Child Care (friend/neighbors or relative care):** simply means, legally exempt from New York State day care regulations as a result of either the relationship between the provider and child, the length of time the child/ren are being cared for and/or the number of children being cared for at any one moment. This type of care is provided outside of the child's home and allows for very minimal oversight.

**Legally Exempt In-Home Child Care (friend/neighbors or relative care):** simply means, legally exempt from New York State day care regulations as a result of either the relationship between the provider and child, the length of time the child/ren are being cared for and/or the number of children being cared for at any one moment. This type of care is provided in the child's home and allows even less oversight than Legally Exempt Child Care.

**Legally Exempt Group Child Care:** is also legally exempt from New York State day care regulations but is required to meet the standards of a state agency other than the Division of Child Care Services. For example, a summer camp may fall into this category and is overseen by the NYS Department of Health.

**Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK):** is a federal publically funded initiative facilitated in NYS through NYC Department of Education. The program serves four year olds with the intention of ensuring the students are prepared for Kindergarten. Of the eight public schools in Sullivan County, six of them house some sort of UPK program with the majority of the students attending full day or six hours per day. Total funding varies by district and is intended to serve approximately 337 four year olds in the 2015-16 school year; currently there are still openings in several district programs. The UPK initiative also engages/includes community based organizations such as Sullivan County Head Start and Easter Seals, Project Excel.

The philosophy of UPK is to ensure all children are prepared for the rigorous learning expected upon entering Kindergarten. However, because full day Pre-K is only six hours and a parent's average work day often extends past nine hours it becomes difficult for working parents to get their children to and/or from school leaving many parents choosing traditional child care settings instead of a UPK program.



## OUR SERVICES

We have been providing child care related services to families, child care professionals and employers across Sullivan County, New York since 1984.

### **In 2015 we provided>**

#### **525 Child Care Referrals**

Increase of 128 from 2014-5

Nearly 75% were eligible for child care assistance

Less than 10% actually apply and/or receive child care assistance

#### **452 Technical assistance calls**

#### **40 In-program technical assistance hours**

#### **10 Classroom Training opportunities**

27 providers served

#### **176 Inspections of child care programs**

129 regulated programs

47 legally exempt programs

#### **39 CACFP Participants**

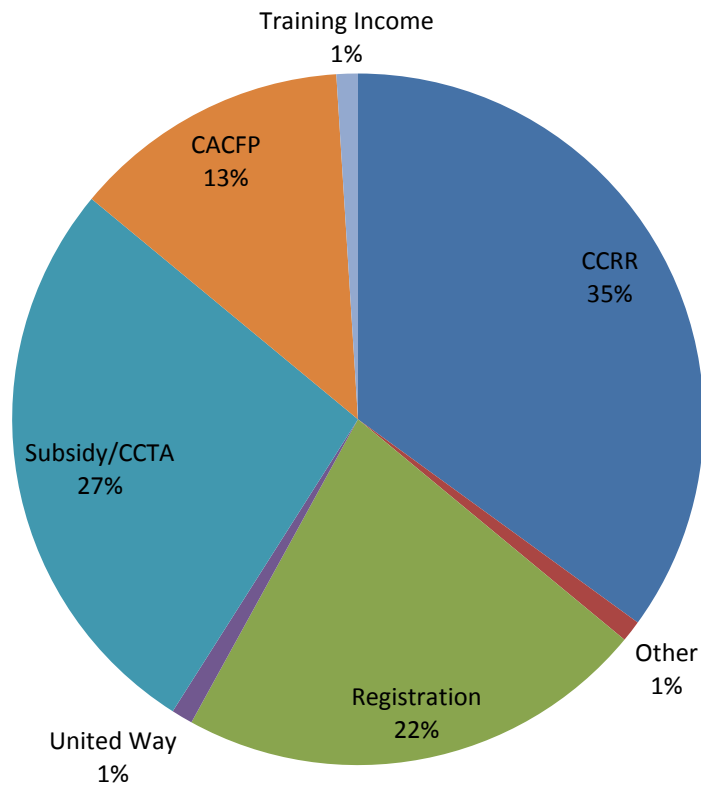
117 Monitor Visits

3,056 Breakfasts served average/month

4,171 Snacks served average/month

2,344 Lunches served average/month

## Sullivan County Child Care Council Funding



Thank you to our donors and the support of our child care professionals, community leaders and other stakeholders.

Approximate unrestricted reserves as of December 31, 2015 is \$215,908.07.

\*Final 2015 figures have not yet been audited for the year 2015.

See Attachments A & B for current program locations.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK.